

Inside Region 3

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Snowy Stare

A Gray Wolf peers between snow covered branches after a recent snowfall at the Wildlife Science Center in Forest Lake, Minn. (FWS Photo by Scott Flaherty)

Congressional Contacts Posted to Region's Intranet

Congressional contact lists for the 114 congressional offices in Region 3 are now available to Service employees on the Intranet.

The contact lists are organized by state and include the congressional member's name, party, office location, phone and fax numbers, and contact for environmental issues. The contact lists are set up to allow a person to link to the congressional member's home page for additional information. Links to each state's delegation are available at this Intranet address:

<http://r3ftp.fws.gov/aba/ea/congress/>
(Jane West, External Affairs)

Canadian Fisherman Sentenced for Illegal Fishing on Lake Erie

Defendant ordered to pay \$15,000 to Great Lakes Conservation Fund

A Canadian commercial fisherman from Port Stanley, Ontario, was sentenced January 20, in U.S. Federal Court in Cleveland, Ohio, to two years probation and ordered to pay \$15,425 for violating federal wildlife protection laws after illegally harvesting fish from U.S. waters of Lake Erie.

Larry R. Jackson, 60, and L.R. Jackson Fisheries, Ltd., were ordered to pay \$15,000 to the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation's Great Lakes Conservation Fund. The money will

be used by the non-profit organization to enhance and protect fisheries resources on the Great Lakes. In addition, Jackson paid \$425 in special court assessments.

The sentence against Jackson and his corporation was the result of an international investigative effort by the Service, U.S. Coast Guard, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Ohio Division of Wildlife.

On November 26, and December 29, 1997, Jackson and his corporation,

L.R. Jackson Fisheries Ltd., was observed using gill nets to illegally harvest fish from U.S. waters of Lake Erie in violation of Ohio state law and the federal Lacey Act.

On both occasions, a U.S. Coast Guard patrol aircraft observed Jackson's 60-foot fishing vessel, *L.R. Jackson*, operating within U.S. waters of Lake Erie. The Coast Guard crew also videotaped Jackson's illegal harvesting of fish by gill net from the lake. (Dan LeClair, Sandusky LE Office)

Necedah's Wheelchair Accessible Hunting Blind Helps Disabled Hunter

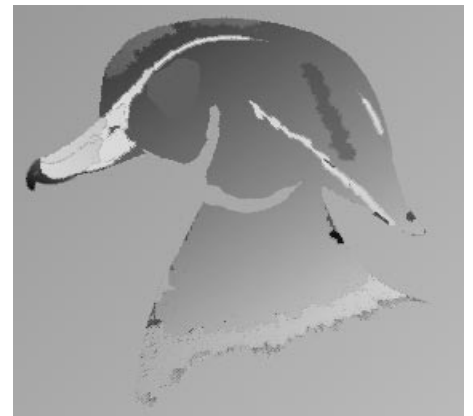
Randy Wallace, permanently disabled and restricted to a wheelchair, used a wheelchair accessible hunting blind to help in his hunting efforts during a successful managed deer hunt held recently at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge. Hunting with a muzzleloading rifle from the Refuge-built blind, Wallace successfully took two does during the January hunt. Doug Siler, a heavy equipment operator at the refuge designed the blind, which can be hooked up to a three-point hitch for easy transport. Refuge staff built the mobile blind, which can be easily moved from one location to another. *(Rod Hansen, Mingo NWR) 1/99*

Accomplishment Reporting Update: *Trouble with Money*

A recently-reported problem with entering dollar amounts on the accomplishment reporting form has been corrected. When entering dollar amounts on the Reporting form, be sure to use commas, (i.e. \$4,500,000 and not 4500000 or \$4.5 million.) The reporting form wasn't recognizing the comma as a valid character in the entry field. As a result, only those numbers entered before the commas were being received by the ARS. Instead of reporting \$4,500,000 the reports were showing only \$4 being spent on a project. *(Scott Flaherty, External Affairs)*

More than 600 Bird Nesting Boxes Created by Fergus Falls Staff and Game Club Volunteers

District staff and volunteers from the Fergus Falls Fish and Game Club joined recently to cut wood, and drill holes on more than 600 bird nesting boxes at the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District. Wood was cut for approximately 350 wood duck boxes and 260 bluebird boxes. Eleven Club members tallied about 190 volunteer hours drilling holes and assembling the boxes. The woodduck boxes were assembled and will be erected by club members and others within the District. The bluebird houses will be given away as kits to: Greenwings (100), local schools (80), Prairie Wetlands Learning Center (50)



and Scouts (30). Since 1991, the Service has helped the Fish and Game Club build 2,366 wood duck and 2,000 bluebird boxes. *(Chuck Vukonich, Fergus Falls WMD) 1/99*

Jordan River NFH Tags 323,000 Lake Trout for Great Lakes Study

Hatchery staff at Jordan River National Fish Hatchery in northwest Michigan recently completed the coded-wire tagging of more than 323,000 lake trout for stocking this spring in Lakes Michigan and Huron. The tagging project will evaluate strain performance, size at stocking and movement patterns on the lakes. The total also includes 28,000 fish

clipped for the State of Michigan. Other partners in the effort included States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Tribal Governments. Approximately 444 staff hours were spent on the project. *(David Huntly, Jordan River NFH) 1/99*

DU Fund Raiser Helps Pay For Water Control Structure at Eng Lake Waterfowl Product Area

Approximately half the cost of a new water control structure at Fergus Falls Wetland Management District was raised during a recent banquet honoring retired regional director for Ducks Unlimited, Bill Peapody. Jim Piehl of the Fergus Falls WMD presented Mr. Peabody, who retired in September 1998, with an award for his many years of resource conservation work in Western Minnesota.

Approximately \$7,5000 raised in a post-banquet fund-raiser will cover half the project's \$15,000 total cost. The water control structure will help reestablish a 30-acre wetland at the Eng Lake Waterfowl Production Area in Douglas County.

The District and DU plan to erect a sign at the site this spring dedicating the WPA to Peabody. *(Jim Piehl, Fergus Falls WMD) 1/99*



“Ray of Hope” by Ron St. Germain, won first place in the Landscape Category. (Photo used by permission)



“My Fish” by Gala Dietrick, won first place in the Recreation Category. (Photo used by permission)

Seney NWR Photo Contest Illustrates Visitors’ ‘Refuge Experience’

Winners of Seney NWR’s Amateur Photo Contest were announced recently. “My Fish” by Gala Dietrick of Garfield Hts, Ohio, placed first in the Recreation category. “Blue Heron” by Matt Swope of Lansing, Mich., place first in the Wildlife category, and “Ray of Hope” by Ron St. Germain of Lansing, Mich., won first place in the Landscape category. The photo contest encouraged visitors to capture their Refuge experience on film and share it with others. Between 50 to 70 photos were entered in the three categories, and displayed at the Refuge Visitor Center, where visitors voted to determine the top three entries in each category. Winning photographs appear in Seney NWR’s newsletter and in local newspapers. (*Mariane Kronk, Seney NWR*) **12/98**

AirVenture '99 in Wisconsin Provides New Venue for Service Message

The Service will return for the second year to the internationally-famous air show in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, July 28 to August 2.

Attendance in 1998 was 850,000, with over 100,000 direct visitor contacts with our staff in the Federal Pavilion. Region 3's Partenavia

Observer aircraft was a highlight of the show and will return in 1999, possibly along with aircraft from the Service's partnership with other Department agencies, the U.S. Forest Service and the State of Minnesota. Over 1,200 international media cover this show each year.

High School Volunteers Help Wisconsin DNR Track New Wolf Pair at Necedah NWR

Twenty six students and chaperones from West Salem High School in western Wisconsin recently participated in a wolf tracking project on Necedah NWR. The day-long education/tracking project was led by Wisconsin DNR Biologist Dick Thiel.

Refuge staff say that recent evidence indicates that a pair of Eastern timberwolves may be taking up residence on Refuge land. While no

wolves were actually sighted on the refuge by the students, they did locate numerous wolf tracks and a kill site.

In addition to wolf tracking, the group was given a demonstration at the refuge headquarters on endangered and threatened species, including the massasauga rattlesnake by Refuge staff. (*LuAnn Rochester, Necedah NWR*)1/99

Historic Beer Storage Cave Returns to Bats at Refuge's McGregor District Office

After being walled-off for many years, the entrance to caves near the McGregor District office of the Upper Mississippi River NW&FR was recently re-opened.

Located at the District's Visitor Contact Station, the caves were originally used for beer and ice storage by a brewery located on the site in the 1860s.

Historically, the caves were host to hundreds of bats and were locally known as "the bat caves."

The caves were later bricked over for safety reasons. One cave was reopened and custom fitted with a gate that will allow access to bats for hibernation, but will keep children out.

One Eastern pipistrel is using the cave this winter. An interpretive sign was developed educating the public on the value of bats. (*Cathy Henry, Upper Mississippi River NW&FR*) 12/98

Upcoming Events in Region 3

Great Lakes Ecosystem Will Be Service Focus at Michigan's Outdoorama

The Region 3 members of the Great Lakes Ecosystem Team will return for the third year to the largest outdoor sporting and environmental education show in the state of Michigan in late February. The Michigan United Conservation Club's 400-member organizations host the "Outdoorama" near Detroit for 10 days each year. 1998's visitation was 102,000.

75th Anniversary of Upper Mississippi NW&FR Will be High Profile Partnership Event

Along with partners the National Audubon Society, the Isaac Walton League, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Friends of the Upper Mississippi and state conservation agencies, Region 3 staff are organizing a major celebration for the 75th Anniversary of the Upper Mississippi NWFR in August of 1999. An invitation has been extended to the Secretary of the Interior for the event, which will include a VIP boat tour of the river, public celebrations at two river landings near LaCrosse, Wisc., and a wildlife release. Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers restoration projects will be highlighted during this high-profile partnership event.

Accomplishment Reports Received

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|---|--|
| 186. DU Fund-Raiser Helps Fund Fergus Falls Wetland Construction Project
Jim Piehl, Fergus Falls, WMD | 205. Lake Herring Review Presented to Great Lakes Technical Committee
Henry Quinlan, Ashland FRO |
| 187. Litchfield WMD-D.U. Complete Stone Lake Project
Steve Erickson, Litchfield WMD | 206. Battle Lake School Students Presentation
Chuck Vukonich, Fergus Falls WMD |
| 188. Necedah NWR Hosts Cross-Country Ski Workshop
Jennifer Rabuck, Necedah NWR | 207. Underwood School Presentation
Chuck Vukonich, Fergus Falls WMD |
| 189. Refuge Manager Interviewed by Local News Reporter
Larry Wargowsky, Necedah NWR | 208. District Staff and Club Volunteers Create Over 600 Bird Nesting Boxes
Chuck Vukonich, Fergus Falls WMD |
| 190. Refuge Manager Interviewed by News Reporter
Larry Wargowsky, Necedah NWR | 209. Seney NWR Photo Contest Illustrates Visitors' "Refuge Experience"
Marianne Kronk, Seney NWR |
| 191. Refuge Manager On Radio Talk Show
Larry Wargowski, Necedah NWR | 210. Youth Deer Hunts on Ottawa NWR
Christy Smith, Ottawa NWR |
| 192. OA Clerk Rabuck Interviewed by Local News Reporter
Jennifer Rabuck, Necedah NWR | 211. Adult Deer Hunts on Ottawa NWR
Christy Smith Ottawa NWR |
| 193. OA Clerk Rabuck Interviewed Chicago Reporter
Jennifer Rabuck Necedah NWR | 212. Environmental Education Presented to Fergus Falls High School Students
Jim Piehl, Fergus Falls NWR |
| 194. OA Clerk Rabuck Interviewed By TV Reporter
Jennifer Rabuck, Necedah NWR | 213. Refuge Volunteers Honored at Annual Banquet
May Stefanski, Upper Mississippi NW&FR |
| 195. Czech Forester Tours Necedah NWR
Larry Wargowsky, Necedah NWR | 214. Canadian Fisherman Sentenced for Illegal Fishing in US Waters of Lake Erie
Dan LeClair, Sandusky Law Enforcement Office |
| 200. Friend of Necedah Logs 500 Volunteer Hours
Jennifer Rabuck, Necedah NWR | 215. Hatchery Staff Tags Thousands of Lake Trout for Great Lakes Study
David Huntly, Jordan River NFH |
| 201. Necedah NWR Names Its 1998 Refuge Volunteer of the Year
Jennifer Rabuck, Necedah NWR | 216. Morris WMD Staff Judge Morris High School Science Fair
Donna Oglesby, Morris WMD |
| 202. Accessible Hunting Blind Helps Disabled Hunter During Refuge Hunt
Rod Hansen, Mingo NWR | 217. Mingo NWR Staff Survive Managed Deer Hunt
Rod Hansen Mingo NWR |
| 203. 12 Trail Benches Constructed at PWLC as Part of Eagle Scout Project
Tim Bodeen, Fergus Falls NWR | 218. Volunteers Help Restore Savanna
Jennifer Rabuck, Necedah NWR |
| 204. Service Represented on Red River Basin Board
Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls NWR | 219. High School Volunteers Help Track New Wolf Pair at Necedah NWR
LuAnn Rochester, Necedah NWR |

Accomplishment Reports Received, continued

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| <p>220. PWLC Featured In Half Hour Local Cable TV Show
Tim Bodeen, PWLC</p> <p>221. Empowerment Zone Designation in Southern Illinois
Marguerite Hills, Cypress Creek NWR</p> <p>222. PWLC Invites Volunteers to a Day of Training
Tim Bodeen, PWLC</p> | <p>223. Fergus Falls First Graders Learn About Predators and Birds
Chuck Vuconich, Fergus Falls WMD</p> <p>224. Bat Cave Opened at McGregor District Office
Cathy Henry, Upper Mississippi River NW&FR</p> |
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Inside Region 3

Inside Region 3 is produced by the External Affairs Office, Region 3, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ft. Snelling, Minnesota. Items herein are selected from reports submitted from the field via the Accomplishment Reporting System. Questions concerning Inside Region 3, or the Accomplishment Reporting System should be addressed to Scott Flaherty, 612-713-5309 or scott_flaherty@mail.fws.gov.



Great Lakes
Big Rivers

Region 3